

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-33. (cancelled)

34. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method of preparing ~~an additive as claimed in claim 30, wherein~~ a sizing composition for paper manufacture comprising:

(a) providing a cationic liquid starchy composition having:

- a dry matter of between 10 and 50%,
- a viscosity, determined according to a T test, of at least equal to 275 mPa~s and at most equal to 930 mPa~s,
- a total nitrogen level at least equal to 0.6% and at most equal to 1.4%, these percentages being expressed by dry weight with respect to the dry weight of the composition, and
- a pH of between 3.5 and less than 9;

(b) diluting the cationic liquid starchy composition ~~is diluted so that its~~ to a dry matter is lowered to a value of between 0.5 and 9%; and

(c) mixing the diluted cationic liquid starchy composition with a sizing agent comprising alkenylsuccinic anhydride.

35. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method of ~~preparing an additive as claimed in~~ claim 34, wherein the cationic liquid starchy composition is diluted ~~so that its~~ in step (b) to a dry matter is lowered to a value of between 1 and 7%.

36-41. (cancelled)

42. (new) The method of claim 34, further comprising (d) submitting the resulting composition to a high shearing treatment for at least 5 minutes at at least 20 000 revolutions/minute.